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Globalization and interdependence: science and technology for development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/60/490, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 25th and 35th meetings, on 9 November and 13 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.25 and 35).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.17 and A/C.2/60/L.59

2. At the 25th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Jamaica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/60/L.17), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recognizing* the vital role that science, technology and innovation can play in development and in facilitating the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, accelerate the pace of diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,
>
> "*Recalling* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in five parts, under the symbol A/60/490 and Add.1-4.

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"*Emphasizing* the importance of international support to developing countries to enable them to benefit from technological advances and to enhance their productive capacity,

"*Underscoring* the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

"*Recognizing* the catalysing role of information and communication technologies in promoting and facilitating the achievement of all development goals, and in this regard stressing the importance of the contribution of the World Summit on the Information Society process to the building of a people-centred, balanced and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide,

"*Acknowledging with appreciation* the role played by the International Telecommunication Union in the organization of the two phases of the World Summit and the useful contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the preparatory process of the Summit,

"*Welcoming* the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme, calling for the intensification of ongoing efforts to mobilize resources for its expeditious implementation, and requesting to be kept informed of its implementation,

"*Noting with appreciation* the hosting of the second World Information Technology Forum by Botswana, from 31 August to 2 September 2005, in Gaborone,

"*Acknowledging* the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries to benefit from the potential of information and communication technologies,

"*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during its intersessional period 2004-2005 on 'Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration', in particular, the recommendation to facilitate the establishment of a network of centres of excellence in developing countries that would connect existing outstanding scientific and technological institutions from developing countries to serve as hubs of learning and conduits for the transfer and diffusion of scientific knowledge and information in new and emerging technologies,

"*Welcoming* the selection by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the substantive theme 'Bridging the technology gap between and within nations' for its work during the intersessional period 2005-2006,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,

"*Taking note also* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development publication *The Digital Divide: ICT Development Indices 2004*,

"*Re-emphasizing* the need to strengthen the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

"*Emphasizing* that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is the key intergovernmental body on science and technology and in contributing to the follow-up process to all relevant United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"1. *Agrees to*:

"(a) Strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

"(b) Promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

"(c) Assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

"(d) Promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;

"(e) Implement policies at international and national levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

"(f) Support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

"2. *Invites* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to contribute, within its mandate, to the follow-up and implementation of the measures on science and technology contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

"3. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to explore initiatives aimed at addressing the special needs of the developing countries in areas such as agriculture, information and communication technologies and environmental management;

"4. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

"5. *Recognizes* the contribution of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and its affiliated centres as well as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations

Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the area of biotechnology, and encourages these and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology to collaborate with a view to enhancing effectiveness in the implementation of programmes designed to assist developing countries in building productive capacity in all areas of biotechnology, including for industry and agriculture, as well as for risk assessment and management of biosafety;

"6. *Stresses* the need to address new challenges of the information society by implementing the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and ensuring the success of the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005, to enable the developing countries to harness the potential of ICT for development;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 35th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/60/L.59), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Juraj Koudelka (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.17.

4. Also at the 35th meeting, the representative of Austria, as facilitator, introduced the following corrections:

(a) A new first preambular paragraph was inserted reading:

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003 and 59/220 of 22 December 2004,"

(b) In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "and recalling the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted at Geneva on 12 December 2003 at the first phase of the Summit," were revised to read: "and recalling the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action of the first phase of the Summit,"

(c) In the twelfth preambular paragraph, quotation marks were placed around the words "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration";

(d) A paragraph was inserted after the thirteenth preambular paragraph reading: "*Taking note also* of the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.59, as orally corrected (see para. 7).

6. Also at the same meeting, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003 and 59/220 of 22 December 2004,

Recognizing the vital role that science and technology can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and can enhance their productive capacity,

Underscoring the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Recognizing the catalysing role of information and communication technologies in promoting and facilitating the achievement of all development goals, and in this regard stressing the importance of the contribution of the World Summit on the Information Society process to the building of a people-centred, balanced and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide,

Welcoming the Tunis Commitment[2] and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society[3] of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and recalling the Geneva Declaration of Principles[4] and the Geneva Plan of Action[5] of the first phase of the Summit,

Acknowledging with appreciation the role played by the International Telecommunication Union in the organization of the two phases of the World Summit,

Welcoming the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,[6]

Noting with appreciation the hosting of the second World Information Technology Forum by Botswana from 31 August to 2 September 2005 in Gaborone,

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[1] Resolution 60/1.
[2] WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7-E.
[3] WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)-E.
[4] A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I, sect. A.
[5] Ibid., sect. B.
[6] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries to benefit from the potential of information and communication technologies,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during its intersessional period 2004-2005 on the theme "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration", in particular, the recommendation to facilitate the establishment of a network of centres of excellence in developing countries[7] with a view to allowing scientists and engineers to interact with each other and make use of state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities offered by those centres,

Taking note of the selection by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the substantive theme "Bridging the technology gap between and within nations" for its work during the intersessional period 2005-2006,[7]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,[8]

Taking note further of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development publication, *The Digital Divide: ICT Development Indices 2004*,[9]

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network in biotechnology, UN-Biotech, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,[8]

1. *Affirms* its commitment to:

(a) Strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

(b) Promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to and development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(c) Assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(d) Promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;

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[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 11* (E/2005/31), chap. I, sect. A.

[8] A/60/184.

[9] UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2005/4, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2005.

(e) Implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(f) Support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum to address within its mandate the special needs of the developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communication technologies and environmental management;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

4. *Recognizes* the contribution of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and its affiliated centres as well as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the area of biotechnology, and encourages those and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology to collaborate with a view to enhancing effectiveness in the implementation of programmes designed to assist developing countries in building capacity in all areas of biotechnology, including for industry and agriculture, as well as for risk assessment and management of biosafety;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the secretary-general of the World Summit on the Information Society to transmit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session the report of the Summit;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.